CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for enabling an image capture system to respond to at least

one command transmitted by a foreign remote control that is associated with a

first device, the method comprising the steps of:

        a) training the image capture system to respond to at least one command that is

received from the foreign remote control; and

        b) employing the foreign remote control to access at least one function of the

trained image capture system.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the image capture system includes a

training mode; wherein the step of training the image capture system to

respond to at least one command that is received from the foreign remote

control further comprises the steps of:

        a_1) enabling the training mode;

        a_2) instructing a user to press a button on the foreign remote control for a

predetermined function of the image capture system;

        a_3) the foreign remote control transmitting a command associated with the

button;

        a_4) the image capture system receiving the command; and

        a_5) the image capture system associating the received command with the

predetermined function of the image capture system.

3.   The method of claim 2 wherein the step of the image capture system

receiving the command further comprises the steps of:

        a_4_1) polling a port for an incoming command;

        a_4_2) determining if a command has been captured;

a_4_3) when a command has not been captured, proceeding to step (a_4_1);

a_4_4) when a bit stream has been captured, proceeding to step (a_5).

4.   The method of claim 3 wherein the command is in the form of a bit stream.

5.   The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

a_6) determining whether there are more functions to process;

a_7) when there are more functions to process, proceeding to step (a_2);

a_8) when there are no more functions to process, exiting training mode.

6.   The method of claim 2 wherein the step of the image capture system associating the received command with the predetermined function of the image capture system includes the step of

storing the association of the received command with the predetermined function of the image capture system in an association table.

7.   The method of claim 1 wherein the image capture system includes a digital image capture device.

8.   The method of claim 7 wherein the digital image capture device includes one of a digital camera and a digital video camera.

9.   The method of claim 7 wherein the image capture system further includes a docking station for receiving the digital image capture device.

10.   The method of claim 1 wherein the image capture system includes

a docking station for receiving a digital image capture device; wherein the docking station includes at least one accessible function.

11. An image capture system comprising:

5   a) a first function that is accessible by a user;

     b) a proxy-based remote control mechanism for receiving commands from a foreign remote control, for associating at least one received command with the first function of the image capture system, and for storing the association between the received command and the first function in an association table

10   during a training mode;

wherein the proxy-based remote control mechanism during operation receives commands from the foreign remote control, decodes the received commands by employing the association table, and allows the foreign remote control to access the function of the image capture system corresponding to the decoded command.

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12. The image capture system of claim 11 wherein the proxy-based remote control mechanism includes

a command receiver for receiving commands from the foreign remote control;

a command decoder for decoding the received commands by employing the

20 association table; and

a command training facility for enabling the foreign remote control to access a function of the image capture system that is associated with the decoded command.

13. The image capture system of claim 11 that includes a reminder mode;

25 wherein the proxy-based remote control mechanism includes

a reminder mode module for generating a representation of a user interface function in response to receiving a command from the foreign remote control when the reminder mode is enabled;

wherein the reminder mode module enables a user to determine a function of the image capture system that is associated with any button on the foreign remote control.

14.   The image capture system of claim 11 wherein the image capture system
5   includes a digital image capture device.

15.   The image capture system of claim 14 wherein the digital image capture device includes one of a digital camera and a digital video camera.

10   16.   The image capture system of claim 11 wherein the image capture system includes
     a docking station for receiving a digital image capture device.

17.   An image capture system comprising:
15   c)   a first function that is accessible by a user;
     d)   a proxy-based remote control means for receiving commands from a foreign remote control, for associating at least one received command with the first function of the image capture system, and for storing the association between the received command and the first function in an association table during a
20   training mode;
     wherein the proxy-based remote control means during operation receives commands from the foreign remote control, decodes the received commands by employing the association table, and allows the foreign remote control to access the function of the image capture system corresponding to the decoded command.
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18.   The image capture system of claim 17 wherein the proxy-based remote control means includes
     means for receiving commands from the foreign remote control;

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means for decoding the received commands by employing the association table; and

means for enabling the foreign remote control to access a function of the image capture system that is associated with the decoded command.

19.   The image capture system of claim 17 wherein the proxy-based remote control means includes

means for generating a representation of a user interface function in response to receiving a command from the foreign remote control when a reminder mode is enabled;

wherein the reminder mode means enables a user to determine a function of the image capture system that is associated with any button on the foreign remote control.

20.   A remote control system comprising:

a) a foreign remote control associated with a first device; and

b) an image capture system that includes a first function that is accessible by a user; and a proxy-based remote control mechanism for receiving commands from the foreign remote control and for associating at least one received command with the first function of the image capture system and storing the association between the received command and the first function in an association table during a training mode;

wherein the proxy-based remote control mechanism during operation receives commands from the foreign remote control, decodes the received commands by employing the association table, and allows the foreign remote control to access the function of the image capture system corresponding to the decoded command.